

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 L-03

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R 301022Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3278

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION GENEVA

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: EAIR SZ

SUBJ: CIVAIR - SWISS ATTEMPT TO ENFORCE AIR FARES

1. SWISS FEDERAL AIR OFFICE (FAO) DIRECTOR GUILDMANN MET SEP 23 WITH CHIEF REPS FOREIGN AIRLINES OPERATING SWITZERLAND TO REQUEST THEY AND DEPUTIES SIGN STATEMENT CONFIRMING: (A) TARIFFS AND TRANSPORT CONDITIONS APPLICABLE FOR SCHEDULED TRAFFIC TO AND FROM SWITZERLAND ARE THOSE WHICH FAO HAS APPROVED IN QUOTE AIR PASSENGER TARIFF (APT) AND AIR CARGO TARIFF (TACT), CURRENT SUPPLEMENTS OR GOVT ORDERS UNQUOTE;
(B) AWARENESS PRESENT LACK TARIFF DISCIPLINE AND CONSEQUENCES (FEDERAL AIR LAW ARTICLES 91-92; ADMINISTRATIVE PENAL ACT ARTICLES 2-7) FOR NON-OBSERVANCE APPROVED AIR FARES, RATES AND CONDITIONS; AND
(C) AWARENESS THEIR RESPONSIBILITY OBSERVE APPROVED FARES AND RATES FOR SALE AIR TRANSPORT IN SWITZERLAND.

2. FAO OFFICIALS (JAISLI AND FUERRER) TOLD EMBOFF

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SEP 26 THIS ACTION AIMED AT AIRLINES WHICH OFFER

CONSIDERABLE FARE REDUCTIONS; BIGGEST OFFENDERSS AEROFLOT, AIR KOREA AND AIR SINGAPORE. FAO HAD RECEIVED ONE SIGNED STATEMENT; OTHERS (INCLUDING TWA) REPORTEDLY SEEKING INSTRUCTIONS HEAD OFFICE. JAISLI DID NOT KNOW WHAT ACTION FAO WOULD TAKE IF AIRLINE REP REFUSED SIGN; HE NOTED REPS EAST EUROPEAN AIRLINES BOYCOTTED GULDIMANN'S MEETING. GULDIMANN REQUESTED STATEMENT AS DEMONSTRATION GOOD FAITH; ACTION FOLLOWS SUCCESS SIMILAR MOVE BY WEST GERMAN GOVT.

3. PRESS NOTED EFFORTS OBTAIN EXCHANGE RATE ADVANTAGE THROUGH TICKET PURCHASES OUTSIDE SWISTERLAND.

JAISLI SIAD SWISS NOT CONCERNED WITH THAT; BELIEVE AIRLINES CAN CONTROL SWISS TRAVEL AGENCIES WHICH SELL DISCOUNT TICKETS. AIRLINES ARGUED THEY CANNOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR TRAVEL AGENTS.

4. FUERRER SAID SWISS COURT PRESENTLY TRYING CASE INVOLVING BALAIR AND SATA CHARTER COMPANIES WHICH SOLD CUT RATE INCLUSIVE TICKETS WITHOUT DESTINATION HOTEL ACCOMODATIONS; PENALTY UPON CONVICTION FINE UP TO SF 20,000 AND/OR IMPRISONMENT.

5. EMBASSY POUCHING COPY STATEMENT AND LAWS CITED TO DEPT. DAVIS

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